

## PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

October 7, 2015

Members Present: Jim Zajkowski, Craig Kittel and Ron Volkert

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Jeremiah Wendt, Nick O'Brien and Jeanne Bergman

Craig Kittel moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Jim Zajkowski and carried.

Craig Kittel moved to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2015, meeting, seconded by Jim Zajkowski and carried.

**Street Sign Inventory:** Nick O'Brien, GIS limited term technician, has been working with the GIS department to develop a web-based application using ArcGIS online software. Using a smart phone or a tablet, he is able to go into the field and collect GPS and other data. They are using this application to conduct a street sign inventory. This inventory will help comply with the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* street sign retro-reflectivity requirements adopted by the state. There is no timeline for compliance, currently a plan is all that is needed.

**Stormwater Planning Update:** During the past year, staff and consultant MSA, have been working on an *Urban Non-Point Source Planning* project for the City. Jeremiah Wendt stated this project is funded by a DNR grant and through matching funds provided from the Hwy. 64 Corridor Coalition. MSA is compiling the stormwater inventory collected in 2014 and making a stormwater model of the entire City. The City will be required to have a permitted stormwater system once the official population reaches 10,000 people. This model will be a powerful tool for planning and maintaining current and future stormwater ponds. MSA will also be reviewing the City's ordinance for compliance.

**Sidewalk Stencil:** The current sidewalk ordinance prohibits bikes and play vehicles, such as roller blades, skateboards, scooters, etc. on City sidewalks along Knowles Avenue. The New Richmond Police Department has requested sidewalk stencils on Knowles Avenue because the current ordinance is difficult to enforce. Craig Kittel moved to stencil each end of the sidewalk areas, as discussed, in the downtown business district along both sides of Knowles Avenue, at First Street and Fourth Street (a total of four locations), seconded by Jim Zajkowski and carried.

**Evergreen Valley Stormwater Outlot:** Evergreen Valley, Third Addition, contains a stormwater pond that was constructed as part of the development. Typically easements are recorded allowing the City to maintain and repair the stormwater ponds or the parcel is dedicated to the public. Currently the parcel is in the name of the developer. The developer is delinquent on taxes, and the parcel is in the process of going back to St. Croix County. An adjacent property owner has expressed interest in purchasing the parcel. City Attorney, Nick Vivian, has drafted an agreement that states the Grantor is responsible for the ongoing maintenance, repair and/or replacement of the stormwater ponds if need be. If the Grantor defaults, the City has the authority to make the repairs with the Grantor being responsible for the costs. Craig Kittel moved to pursue getting easements to enter and maintain the stormwater ponds on the parcel, seconded by Jim Zajkowski and carried.

**Cemetery Trees:** John Helling from the Cemetery Association approached City staff to inquire about the possibility of planting additional trees in the cemetery. The proposed trees would be black hills spruce, spaced 50 feet apart, extending in a line from South Starr Avenue westward, just south of existing cemetery road. Ron Volkert moved to approve this request, seconded by Craig Kittel and carried.

**Communication and Miscellaneous:** Discussion took place on the possibility of including the railroad bed from North Fourth Street to Hatfield Park into the Bike and Pedestrian Pathway Plan. Members felt it would streamline the process if we incorporated this route into the Comprehensive Plan first.

Craig Kittel moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Zajkowski and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 pm.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Bergman